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UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

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HABITAT SCROLL OF HONOUR AWARDS FOR 1990

Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, The Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), today announced the recipients of the "Habitat Scroll of Honour", an international award for outstanding contributions by individuals, organizations and projects to the improvement of human settlements.

Lord Scarmon, a high court judge in the United Kingdom, was the only individual to win an award this year. He was highly recommended for his untiring efforts to provide shelter for the homeless and the poorest segment of society in the inner city section of London. As President of the United Kingdom Council for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (1987), he called on the central and local governments to examine the housing situation of the poor and disadvantaged and to alleviate their poverty.

The first organization to receive this year's award is Craterre - The International Centre for the Earth Construction of France. It excelled as a non-governmental organization which since 1973 has promoted the use of earth as a building material through training, consulting and publishing. Craterre has worked in at least 50 countries (developed and developing) and has trained hundreds of technicians and architects.

The second organization singled out for an award is Colombia's "Construyamos" (let's construct). This organization effectively motivated families to help themselves. Even more outstanding was its success in establishing Administrative Offices throughout Colombia to secure active support from the Government, Financial Institutions, and the private and public sectors thereby achieving a visible improvement in the housing sector and the economy of Colombia.

The Tangshan Municipal Government of China also receives an award for its massive reconstruction programme to rebuild the City of Tangshan after the 1976 Earthquake which left the city in ruins. This exercise is an outstanding example of how problems of housing, infrastructure and services can be approached scientifically and compassionately.

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The project in the United Republic of Tanzania, the rehabilitation of Zanzibar Stone Town, is an excellent example of inter-agency co-operation to restore and preserve traditional architecture. With funding from the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, the European Economic Community, the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development and United Nations agencies, the Government carried out a restoration exercise using appropriate technology and materials and at the same time conserved the architectural heritage from Arab, Indian and European cultures.

Thailand's project, the Ruamjai Samakki Resettlement Project, which is being executed by the Human Settlements Foundation, Thailand, has effectively demonstrated how solutions to the problems related to housing finance, acquisition of land for housing, shelter and community services depend to a large extent on community participation. This project has a tremendous potential for replicability in other countries.

The Habitat Scroll of Honour Awards will be presented to organizations and projects on World Habitat Day, which will be commemorated on Monday,1 October 1990.

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GLOBAL OBSERVANCE OF WORLD HABITAT DAY

Governments, non-governmental organizations and international organizations throughout the world will, on Monday, 1 October 1990, observe **World Habitat Day** and highlight this year's theme: **SHELTER AND URBANIZATION.**

The purpose of World Habitat Day observance is to focus attention on the urgent need to alleviate the problem of the deplorable living conditions of the one billion homeless people throughout the world. This year's theme is intended to emphasize the critical shelter challenges posed by urbanization in both developing and industrialized countries.

The activities planned to commemorate this day vary from exhibitions, concerts, seminars, forums, to award giving ceremonies. This year's main World Habitat Day observance will take place in London, on 1 and 2 October at the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, London, United Kingdom. Mr. Peter Elderfield, Director of the Building and Social Housing Foundation (B and SHF), a United Kingdom based organization will host their annual World Habitat Awards. The Right Honourable, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Q.C. M.P., Lord President of the Council, Leader of the House of Commons and Deputy Prime Minister, will present the B and SHF Awards, a silver trophy and Pounds 10,000 (Sterling), to Costa Rica, Japan and Venezuela, for their innovative human settlements projects. Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, Executive Director, UNCHS (Habitat), will address the guests at the ceremony and announce the recipients of this year's Habitat Scroll of Honour, UNCHS (Habitat)'s International Award for outstanding contributions by individuals, organizations and projects to the improvement of human settlements. Lord Scarman, a high court judge in the United Kingdom, the only individual to win this year's award, will receive the Scroll of Honour for his untiring efforts to provide shelter for the homeless in the inner city area of London, during the ceremony.

UNCHS (Habitat) and the NGO Committee on Shelter and Community are co-sponsoring a two-day conference (October 1 and 2) on "Sustainable Development in Industrialized Nations, the Challenge of Decent and Affordable Housing for All" at the New York Society for Ethical Culture, New York. The Conference will focus attention on the phenomenon of growing homelessness and the housing crisis in industrialized countries. The Conference is

expected to attract a wide spectrum of professionals in the field of human settlements, who will examine some innovative measures to meet the challenge of affordable and decent housing for all in the industrialized countries within the context of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000.

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